



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service



# News Release

Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture  
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**Results** of a recent survey are contained in this release. You can also find it on our site at [www.nass.usda.gov/pa/](http://www.nass.usda.gov/pa/) and click on the Pennsylvania Publications link.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Pennsylvania Agaricus Mushroom Production

HARRISBURG, PA, Aug 20, 2009 --- Pennsylvania growers led all states by producing 524.6 million pounds, or 65 percent of all U.S. Agaricus mushrooms sold during the 2008-09 season; up 6 percent from last year's production according to the Pennsylvania Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Pennsylvania growers received, on average, 88.1 cents per pound for all Agaricus mushroom sales, down 3 percent from the previous year. Pennsylvania's Agaricus crop was valued at \$462 million, up 2 percent from the 2007-08 crop.

Commonwealth mushroom producers sold 420 million pounds of Agaricus mushrooms for fresh market. Fresh market sales tallied \$408.1 million. In addition, Pennsylvania growers supplied 85 percent or 104 million pounds of Agaricus mushrooms sold in the U.S. for processing. Processing sales in Pennsylvania totaled \$53.8 million for the 2008-09 season. Prices for mushroom sales are the average price that the producer receives at the point of first sale.

Chester County, PA, accounted for 62 of the 71 Agaricus mushroom growers in Pennsylvania. Chester County growers produced 364 million pounds that were valued at \$312 million. The growing area in Chester County was 11.8 million square feet and the total fillings were 56 million square feet.

Nationally, Agaricus mushroom volume of sales totaled 802 million pounds, up slightly from the 2007-08 season but 2 percent below 2006-07. Pennsylvania accounted for 65 percent of the total volume of sales and second-ranked California contributed 15 percent. The value of the Agaricus crop was estimated at \$909 million dollars, down 1 percent from the 2007-08 season. Brown mushrooms, including Portobello and Crimini varieties, accounted for 111 million pounds, up 5 percent from last season and 12 percent above the 2006-07 crop year. Brown mushrooms accounted for 14 percent of the total Agaricus volume sold. The brown mushroom crop value of sales for the 2008-09 season is \$155 million dollars, 17 percent of the total Agaricus value.

Value of sales for commercially grown specialty mushrooms in 2008-09 is \$48.0 million, up 6 percent from the 2007-08 season. A specialty grower is defined as having at least 200 natural wood logs in production or some commercial indoor growing area, and \$200 dollars or more in sales. The average price per pound received by growers, at \$3.10, is up 14 cents from the previous season.

Growers produced 41.0 million pounds of mushrooms that were certified organic during the 2008-09 growing season, 3 percent above 2007-08. Out of the 41.0 million pounds, 12.0 million pounds, or 29 percent of the total were sold as certified organic mushrooms, while the rest were sold without the certified organic label. This compares with 13.2 million pounds, or 33 percent sold as certified organic during the 2007-08 crop year. Agaricus mushrooms accounted for 89 percent of the mushrooms sold as certified organic, while all specialty mushrooms made up the remainder. These certified organic sales represent 1 percent of the 2008-09 total mushroom sales. The number of certified organic mushroom growers totaled 42, unchanged from the previous season. These growers represent 15 percent of the 285 total mushroom producers.

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